Bristol. November 30 - 1848

My dear Mr. May.

In case of my having less time on a future day, I will at once acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of your letter of Oct: 31st by Mr. J. P. Stephens accompanied by an account of the American Const:n & "Rankins Letters on Slavery" - I had been puzzling in vain a few days before to make out, with ineffectual help, some portions of the Am:n Con:stitution, especially the State Legislatures, & I now hope to acquire the knowledge I seek for.

A later letter of mine than that you answered (of Oct 2nd,) tho' I believe a short one, went by the Leeds box for the Boston Fair, (date Oct 30) which box, with ours I hope will arrive safely! And about a fortnight since, I sent you a copy of the Inquirer, containing an explananation of the remarks I made in reference to Mr. Martineau's letter, to let you see that I do not lower my standard of A. S. principle. I believe I gave you some acct. of the Exeter Meeting?

I am glad to receive your remarks on Douglass & his N. Star speculation. A disappointed man is very apt to misinterpret the causes of his failure. I hope sincerely that he may yet succeed, & not lose the handsome sum of money collected for him. His friend Mrs. Richardson wd., I think, have done more wisely had the money been secured so as for him to have had the interest only. Poor Brown must be sadly puzzled with Mrs. R's writing, & "secret enough, I shd think, her communications wd. be, if he alone had to peruse them. She is certainly active & clever, & benevolent, but I think her zeal wd. soon cool if she were not the ostensible agent in her philanthropic exertions. She is stupidly bigoted in religious matters: I think I told you she claimed some merit for having,

after due deliberation, made up her mind
to fraternize with me in A. S. affairs
although I was a Unitarian! How kind!

I do not suppose Mr. Heywood was adverse
to the W. India Emancipation, but as some
members of his family had large W. India
possessions, & he probably referred to the
wide-spread ruin of planters, merchants
&c now existing in the W. Indies, & especially in Ja-
maica. Certainly, on ~~&~~ many members
who once had to do with Slavery, a heavy
visitation is now come. I know of people
in Jamaica, bred up in luxury,
now wanting clothing & nutritious
food. Estates are fast going out of cul-
tivation. Still, I believe generally,
the Negros themselves, are not badly
off: and after the present severe storm
is over, I trust that a peaceful &
prosperous condition will ensue. But
present evils are by no means the
result of emancipation, tho' that mea-

since may have hastened a catastrophe that had been year after year obviously approaching. I am glad you gave Mr. Hague some A.S. tracts: he is a kind-hearted man, but not likely I think to be a "violent" Abolitionist".

Thank you for your explanations about the election of President: I hope soon to master the subject, which I doubt not, is a very simple one to those who understand it... I do not think any of the eager desire for voting exists here, which you speak of; and were any important political or philanthropic purpose to be served by the avoidance of voting, I am satisfied that not few would be the number of stubborn unwavering Englishmen, who would dis*franchise* themselves in the most determined manner. Nothing is more common in our elections of Members of Parliament, where a Borough returns two members & each elector can vote for the 2, for him to give what is called a *plumper*; that is a vote for *one* member only.

2nd/ I could not have supposed any of my crude remarks upon Continental politics would have interested you. I have now done with speculation as far as France is con- ~~contain~~ cerned. I lose almost all interest in a country that contemplates so aimless a project as electing Louis Napoleon as President, — a thoroughly stupid man, with no recommendation but his Uncle's name!

I much fear events on the Continent — the horrid massacres of citizens by their fellow citizens in Paris, Berlin, Frankfort, Vienna, Naples, & now in Rome, will tend to make people submit with unusual contentment to "strong" Governments for the purpose of being secured from the violence of those who have much to gain & nothing to lose by anarchy & confusion. Accustomed as I have always been to mix much with those whose sympathies are with freedom & liberal Governments, I could ~~can~~ ~~can~~not but be struck with remarking while the contest was going on at Vienna, how general the hope was, that the cause of order would triumph in the success of the Emperor over the insurgents! — However, I feel satisfied that Providence will over-rule all for good, and I cannot but hope that Roman Catholic priestcraft will receive some deadly blows in the struggles now going on, so ~~as~~ much confined to Catholic populations. The visit of many hundred French Natl. Guards to London lately was a curious & amusing circumstance. John Bull really cordially welcomed them, & they are said to have been astonished & delighted at their ~~cordial~~ hospitable reception. An English grenadier who robbed one of the Natl. Guards, while they were drinking together, of a few shillings, tho' interceded for by the forgiving Frenchman, has been tried, found guilty, & expelled from the service with much ignominy.

I have received a letter from Mrs. Chapman from Paris respecting my portrait of Dr Channing, the genuineness of which she has most satisfactorily authenticated. She seems unable to account for no reference being made to this picture in the enumeration of the portraits in the Memoir, & presumes Mr. W. H. Channing had forgotten it, or did not know of it. I hope soon to hear from him on the subject, & I will then send a little notice of my copy to the Inquirer. It has been seen with much interest by many of Dr Channing's admirers. I greatly prefer the expression in this portrait to that of the engraving in the 2d Vol. of the Memoir. The picture is now in a handsome frame, & hung rather high, & in a good light in my drawing room, & shows to much advantage —

I am much pleased to hear of Mr. Garrison's recovery & return to Boston: but let him beware how he ever undertakes again as much as he once did! Pray give mine, & my daughter's kindest regards & congratulations to him: tell him he ought to be thankful for having been able to do as much as he has done for the A.S. cause, & that if he wishes to labour on long in it, he must labour moderately. At Mr. Phillips's recovery I also sincerely rejoice. But amidst my rejoicings, I am sorry to lose Mr. Quincy from the Liberator. I suppose Douglass has by this time got his copy of the French translation of his Narrative? Miss Parkes (the translator) is passing the winter in Guernsey with her mother & sister. The pretended trial in the Chronotype was copied as true, into the "B. & F. A.S. Reporter." I was always suspicious about it.

You will perceive that I did not omit to send you the engraving you wished for.

3rd/ If you meet with the Life of Sir T. Fowell Buxton, (it is only one Vol.) do read it, at least the part of it ~~in~~ which records his A. S. course. I am sure it will interest you. Have you read the Life of Mrs. Fry? But I suppose not.

Thank you for offering me "Despotism in America". I have long possessed it, & have of course read it.

Our newspaper editors seem very well satisfied with Genl. Taylor's election, from no particular admiration of him, but from the belief that he will be a more peaceable President, and on more friendly terms with our nation than Cass would have proved. They say Van Buren had not a single vote.

Friday Decr. 1st. This morning's post has brought me from my friend Mrs. Richardson her "monthly Illustr." I believe you know it: the idea is good. Many newspapers insert some of the anecdotes she gleans for the "Illustr." I send you as much of one as my envelope will hold. What truth is there in what Mrs. R. says in the few lines she wrote on her cover.

I have an excellent brother-in-law, who devotes his time & property to Schools for the poor, who wd quite sympathize with Mr Garrison in his praises of Hydropathy; tho' he wd hardly go so far as Mr G. in recommending "all "who have broken down in constitution to go "to a Water cure Institu: in preference to any other contrivance for restoration." This is rather comprehensive advice, & ought to be the result of no small amount of medical skill, reading, & experience. - That ex:cellent lady Miss Elizth Pease, has written me a long exhortation to cure complaints by Hydropathy instead of other means. I am astonished at the manner in which sen:sible people expose their want of reflection and narrowness of view, when they ~~advise~~ instruct the world in medical matters. Were they to assume the same dictatorship in regard to coats, gowns or shoes, they wd be at once put down as simpletons. Miss Pease seems to forget that our profession has more to do with the poor than the rich, & that if some "other contrivances for their restoration" than "Water Cure Inst." sea-side excursions, & horse & carriage exercise, ~~ample~~ sufficient diet &c, &c were not ad:vised, they wd fare but badly. I doubt not our ardent friends will in time settle that surgical operations are as needless as medi:

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cine. . I have 3 patients now under my care; a gentleman from Wiltshire, an old farmer's wife of 75 from Wales, & a lady of this city, who would not agree to this doctrine. A month ago they were all *blind*, & now can see every thing — (they will all be able to read,) each of them having had their ~~xx~~ Cataracts extracted. — ~~However~~, It is, I know, very vulgar for a person to direct attention to his own special pursuits; you must excuse me, for the *aggravation* to do so is sometimes considerable. Tho' my day is nearly gone by, I cannot lose my interest in the importance & inestimable value of my noble profession. I believe no class of society do so much, & with so little ostentation, for the *poor*, as the medical profession. —

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I am obliged to cut off a bit of my paper to
keep my letter within ½ an Ounce.

I quite accord in ~~your~~ the desirableness
of not lowering the standard of true A.S. sentiment
& of aiming at the point of its not being deemed
abusive to affix the same epithet to the stealer
of a man, as to the stealer of a horse, & this same
term, also to those, who defend either as the

The first article in Mrs Richardson's "Monthly
Illustratⁿ of Amⁿ Slavery" will give you
exact notion of her opinions, & present efforts in
the A.S. cause: in reference to this movement
Geo: Thompson writes me, — he wishes certain
persons would direct their A.S. zeal into more
useful channels. — Did I not tell you of
Mrs R's trouble about H. Bibb & his 2 wives
& of a negociation with him to come to England
being broken off from the scandal this little bigamous
proceeding would bring on his religious character.
But I must end. My Daughter's regards Ever sincerely yours
J. B. Estlin